

Saudi International Squash Tournament 2007

23-28 October, Al-Khobar

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البطولة السعودية الدولية للاسكواش  
Saudi International Squash Tournament

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## SEMI-FINALS:

[1] Amr Shabana (Egy) bt [3] David Palmer (Aus)

13/11, 11/8, 11/4 (54m)

[2] Ramy Ashour (Egy) bt [4] Gregory Gaultier (Fra)

10/12, 11/2, 8/11, 11/2, 11/8 (68m)

Final tonight at 19.00

## Semi-finals: *It's an all-Egyptian final at Sunset Beach*

The packed crowd at Sunset Beach went wild tonight, not once, but twice, as their favourite Egyptians won through to the final of the richest event in squash history.



They did it in contrasting styles, as defending champion Amr Shabana beat world champion David Palmer in straight games having saved game balls in the first. The second was equally tight but again it was Shabana who edged home, and the world number one won through to the final courtesy of a barrage of winners to close out the third.

Second seed Ramy Ashour eventually got the better of France's Gregory Gaultier in a five-game thriller that kept the crowd on the edge of its seats as the momentum swung one way, then the other. The Frenchman came from 10/8 down to claim the first before succumbing 11/2 as the Egyptian found his shots in the second. Gaultier regrouped to take the lead, but early errors cost him the fourth as Ramy leveled, 11/2 again. The decider was some game, 15-minutes of talent and tension. Ramy led 4/1, Greg recovered to 6-all, then 8-all. Greg lunged after the ball into the back corner and was left sprawling as Ramy put away an easy winner to lead 9/8, then Greg hit his return of serve out to gift Ramy two match balls.



He only needed one. A tin on his second shot spelled the end for Greg, and sparked the celebrations of the crowd.

One thing is sure - the crowd will be happy tonight with either winner, but it would be a brave man who put a lot on it ...



"My shots were very crisp, I had a good hit this morning when I felt good and it paid off tonight, my

shots were working well. When I got a couple of points ahead in the third I knew it was time to push for a 3/0 win, and I had the confidence to go for my shots and thank God they came off.

"It will be fun playing Ramy in the final, he's just like a kid, out there having fun, it should be a good match."

*Amr Shabana*



"I felt that we were both playing in patches, we were both up and down. I had the lead 10/8 in the first and if I'd taken that it would have helped my confidence, I would have stepped the pace up. But I had to play safe for a while after that, get the feel of my shots, then, when I did, I pushed as hard as I could."

"Hisham told me in between games what he was doing, what was working on court and what wasn't, he really helped me."

*Ramy Ashour*

